

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH
60 FORSYTH STREET, SW SUITE 6M80
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303**

OFFICE: 404-562-5850 **FAX:** 404-562-5875 **JOHNNY FREEMAN:** 404-562-5870
INTERNET: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm> **RECORDING:** 404-562-5856

April 2, 2004

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
FOR WEEK ENDING 03-Apr-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	CURRENT WEEK 04/03/04	PREVIOUS WEEK 03/27/04
BRO-FRY	159,305	156,496
LT HENS	1,298	1,345
HVY HENS	1,459	1,307

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

WEEK ENDING 27-Mar-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
HEAD	216	0	216
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS			
LAST WEEK	202	11	213
SAME WEEK YR AGO	239	0	239
TO-DATE/2004	2,789	40	2,829
TO-DATE/2003	3,722	49	3,771

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
HEAD	1,470	1,222	2,692
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS			
LAST WEEK	1,485	1,349	2,834
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,219	1,391	3,610
TO-DATE/2004	18,063	15,246	33,309
TO-DATE/2003	23,926	16,364	40,290

**LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
WEEK ENDING 27-Mar-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	152,749	1,254	1,222	2,476
AVG WT	5.16	3.24	8.00	5.59
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS				
LAST WEEK	153,006	1,283	1,338	2,621
SAME WK YR AGO	152,814	1,980	1,391	3,371
AVG WT	5.07	3.43	7.84	5.25
TO-DATE/2004	1,842,387	15,274	15,206	30,480
TO-DATE/2003	1,807,846	20,204	16,315	36,519

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 158.0 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 154.6 million head or 3.4 million head less than or 98% of estimated fryers available.

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING 20-Mar-2004

(A) FAST FOOD/FOOD SERVICE 4.20 LBS & DOWN	(B) RETAIL 4.21-5.25 LBS	(C) DEBONING 5.26 LBS & UP
-----THOUSANDS-----		

Head	27,824	20,869	47,669
Avg Weight	3.49	4.76	6.30
% of total /1	29%	22%	49%
 Last week	 34,478	 21,485	 47,775
Avg Weight	3.60	4.81	6.22
% of total /1	33%	21%	46%
 Same week, yr ago /2	 27,427	 29,572	 40,349
Avg Weight	3.71	4.74	6.30
% of total /1	28%	30%	41%
 To date/2004	 289,595	 233,826	 478,590
To date/2003	259,557	237,862	466,967

/1 MAY NOT TOTAL TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING

/2 COMPARABLE WEEK

- (A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include Cornish hens.
- (B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.
- (C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED WEEK ENDING 27-Mar-04
(THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG (B) HENS	TOMS	YOUNG BREEDERS	OLD BREEDERS	TOTAL
HEAD	1,808	2,595	48	7	4,458
AVG WT	15.86	36.62	24.28	27.78	28.05
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS					
LAST WEEK	1,701	2,449	56	2	4,208
SAME WK YR AGO	1,592	2,920	37	28	4,577
AVG WT	16.22	36.68	26.89	27.90	29.43
TO-DATE/2004	20,352	29,624	527	97	50,600
TO-DATE/2003	20,558	31,946	700	202	53,406

SOURCE: USDA/AMS POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (404) 562-5850.